NEW-YORK FRIDAY, MAY 14, 1869.

## Vol. XXIX ..... No. 8,767. WASHINGTON.

SECRETARY BOUTWELL'S POLICY - THE PUR-CHASED BONDS TO BE HELD AS A SINKING FUND-CONTRADICTORY CUBAN REPORTS-DISCRIMINATING TONNAGE DUTIES - THE PURCHASE OF SUPPLIES FOR THE INDIAN BUREAU-RESIGNATION OF A LARGE NUM-BER OF THE NEWLY-APPOINTED CONSULS.

IBT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE 1 Washington, Thursday, May 13, 1889. Secretary Boutwell to-day said that he intends to stamp on all bonds purchased and returned to the Department the statement that they are the property of the United States, held as a sinking fund under

Secretary Fish some time ago addressed a communication to the Consul at Havana, instructing him to ascertain from our consular agents in other parts of the island, and from any other trustworthy sources, the exact status and strength of the insurgent party, and what are its chances of success. Yesterday the Secretary received voluminous dispatches from Consul Plumb, who states that it is almost impossible to arrive at a correct estimate of the force under the Cuban leaders. The Consul incloses a letter from a minent American merchant residing in the interior who estimates the whole Cuban army at from 15,000 to 20,000 men. This includes detached parties acting as guerillas as well as the regular force. A letter inclosed by the Consul from another American merchant states that the entire effective force of Cubans does not amount to more than 1,400 men. Regarding these two statements the Consul writes: The truth probably lies between the two extremes. I do not think the Cuban army amounts to 25,000 men, but it is certainly more than 1,400." In another part of his dispatch Mr. Plumb says: "From all that can be ascertained there is not a Cuban ma woman, or child, on the Island who does not sympathiz with the insurrection. Some of them do this more openly than others, but they are all animated with a bitter hate toward Spain." This is the most hopeful sign of the Cuban cause, and if the insurgents are able to hold out six mouths longer Spain will be compelled to abandon the attempt to subdue them.

Discriminating tunnage duties are laid against American vessels in the Spanish West Indian ports. Under our legislation, the same discrimination is made in our ports against Spanish vessels. It bears very lightly on them, while on our commerce the tax is onerous, as the value of our trade with Cuba and Porto Rico more than equals that of all other nations. By a royal decree, dated June 4. 1868, it was provided that the yessels of all nations conceding equal privileges to Spanish ships, should be placed on the same footing as regards tonnage dues, in her West Indian ports. Last Winter, Mr. Lynch of Maine called the attention of Congress to the subject, and the result was the passage of a law repealing previous acts bearing on the subject and admitting Spanish vessels to equal privileges conditional upon the same being accorded to us, and a circular was issued, March 6, by the Treasury Department, announcing the law. The Spanish Government had removed the discrimination six mouths before. Great Britain, France, and other nations had availed themselves of the same. Our condition could not be complied with. according to "red tape," because the thing was already done. The Secretary of State (Mr. Seward) proposed to Minister Roberts, April 15, that his Government be communicated with, and that on a certain day a telegraphic reply be arranged announcing the removal of tunnage discriminations from our commerce, upon the receipt of which the President would, on the same day, issue a proclamation announcing the removal of the same duties from Spanish vessels. No answer has been received to this owing, it is believed to the delicate nature of our relations with that Government. Mr. Lynch presented the subject to the Secretary of the Treasury whose common sense at once at the diplomatic puzzle. It was decided to immediately issue instructions to Collectors of Customs, announcing that, in consideration of the decree of June last, relieving American vessels of the discriminating tax, and in accordance with the major of which is the fermed that the negroes are no longer regarded as a separate class in politics. The address concludes as follows: Our rights as men were recognized by Mr. Lincedin, and we are filled with all gratitude for the fact; but we come to you with a feeling of fellowship, added to that of a mere sense of gratitude, because you have appointed members of our race to important positions, and thus given a rebuke to regular prejudice against a class. In this you have gone far beyond our late lamented provided in the proposition of the provided in the provided in the provided provided in the p late law, hereafter no such tax or duty will be levied on Spanish vessels entering ports of the United States. Upon communicating this fact to the Spanish Minister, there can be no doubt that our shipping will be placed in the Cuban and other ports upon a footing with those of the most favored nations. The tax is \$1 a tun, in gold, and the loss to our merchants is about \$1,000,000 annually.

A plan is being matured at the War Department to draw the supplies for the Indian Bureau from the Commissary and Quartermaster's Departments, using the supplies now on hand in those Departments, and thus obviating the necessity of making purchases in the open market, except for such articles as are not to be found in the Government stores. It will be remembered that President Grant recommended the transfer of the Indian Bureau to the War Department, but Congress declined to accede to his request. He has, however, so manipulated the Bureau as virtually to have accomplished his purpose, having put an army officer at the head of the Bureau, and secured the assignment of army officers as Indian

Secretary Fish is in receipt of letters from persons who are appointed Consuls, and who have received their instructions, declining the places, because they ascertain that they cannot travel abroad from place to place. When they applied for consulships they misapprehended their duties. It is the opinion of the Secretary that at least one-half of the consulates

lately filled will be vacated in six months. The following protest, signed by 350 mechanics, and other employés of the Washington Navy-Yard, was forwarded to the Secretary of the Navy, yester-

day, through the commandant: We, the undersigned workingmen is: the Washington Navy-Yard, respectfully protest against the reduction of our pay to the standard of eight-tenths, as at present prescribed by the Secretary of the Navy, for eight hours' labor, and accept it with the understanding that we shall demand the balance (two-tenths) due us at the hands of Congress, or through the Court of Claims.

Similar protests have been or will be sent from all

the Navy-Yards in the country. Joseph H. Talt has been appointed postal clerk on

the route between Washington and New-York, vice

Ex-Senator Wade is made a permanent Director of the Pacific Railroad, instead of a Commissioner. A delegation of colored men and a committee from

the late Virginia Convention had interviews with the President to-day. Mr. Howard, Minister to China, and Col. Markbreit, Minister to Bolivia, paid their farewell visits to the President, previous to their departure for their duties.

An order was issued to-day, from the Navy Department, instructing commandants of Navy-Yards not to make any distinction on account of race or color in the employment of caulkers or other laborers.

The proprietors of the National Theater in this city have entered suit for \$2,000 against the agent of Miss Kellogg, for his failure to fulfill a contract made

the General Land Office, was, to-day, appointed Post-

New-Work

the General Land Office, was, to-day, appointed Postmaster of this city.

Acting Commissioner Douglas has written a letter to the Collector at Henderson, N. C., in reply to a letter informing him that parties in Raleigh have been selling tobacco stamps, and that he had caused the arrest of one of them. In reply the Acting Commissioner says the selling of false, fraudulent, forged or counterfeited stamps is made an offense punishable by a fine and imprisonment under the Internal Revenue Act of 1864, as amended by the Acts of 1866 and 1868; but the stamps sold in Raleigh are claimed to be, and are, genuine Government stamps. The law does not in so many words in direct terms prohibit the sale of stamps by persons other than Collectors or the purchase of such stamps from persons other than Collectors. It was however clearly the intention of Congress to limit the sale and purchase of tobacco stamps to and from a Collector of Internal Revenue. The Commissioner, according to the provisions of the law, is authorized to arnish stamps only to Collectors, who are the only persons authorized to sell stamps. The sale of stamps by any other person is an unauthorized sale, and even Collectors are restricted in their sales. They cannot sell to any one, but only to manufacturers, importers, and such other persons as are required by law to affix stamps to unstamped goods before selling or offering them for sale. Collectors are quired by law to affix stamps to unstamped goods be-fore selling or offering them for sale. Collectors are held accountable for all the stamps intrusted to them. held accountable for all the stamps intrusted to them, and are required to give an account not only of the value of such stamps but also of the disposition which they make of them. The number, amount, and denominate values sold by him to each manufacturer and to other persons described are to be recorded by him. No Collector can sell to a manufacturer out of his own district unless such manufacturer has given the bond required by law. The Acting Commissioner concludes as follows: The spirit, if not the letter, of the law is clearly violated by every person other than a Collector who sells or by every person other than a Collector who sells or offers for sale tobacco or cigar stamps. Such stamps are not legitimate articles of traffic, and as selling are not legitimate articles of traffic, and as selling and buying are concurrent conditions of one transaction, it follows that the purchasing of stamps from any other person than a Collector is an illegal transaction, and if not punishable as a misdemeanor it is a reprehensible act, to be condemned and discontinued. The selling of stamps by any person other than Collectors is a violation of the 67th section of the act of July, 1808. If the sale is made by a manufacturer of tobacco or curars he may be liable to the penalty imposed by the 16th section of the same act. If the sale of stamps is made by persons other than manufacturers, as above, the law has not provided any specific penalty. In such cases, however, the person so selling would be arrested, as the presumption in all such cases is unavoidable that the stamps sold or offered for sale by the persons

the presumption in all such cases is unavoidable that the stamps sold or offered for sale by the persons unauthorized and forbidden to sell are false, forged, fraudulent, sparieus, or counterfeit."

This afternoon the National Executive Committee of the colored men of the United States, appointed by the Convention held in Washington in January last, waited on the President to pay their respects to him and to present to him an address signed by Geo. C. Downing of Rhode Island, President F. G. Barbadoes of Massachusatts, Sela Martin of New-York. Wm. J. Wilson of New-Jersey, and George L. Matson of North Carolina, local Committee. It is set forth that they gladly took advantage of a statement published by trustworthy newspapers of the Republican party to seek the interview; that the statement was to the effect that the President intended to appoint in the Northern States to important positions such colored men as could discharge the duties with profit and honor to the public service. Knowing this reported intention to be so eminently in keeping with the record of his Administration, they thought that a few suggestions made by those familiar with the North night lend some support to the policy indicated. Among other things they say the colored men of the North have already furnished such proofs of manhood as to have left the question of fitness for office out of the arena of mere experiment. They are assured the appointment of competent and trustworthy colored men to prominent positions in the Northern States would give a death-blow to objections to their holding of such

the General Government in Rhode Island, the problem of negro office-holding be-comes easy of solution in Georgia. Then too, they think that if in the Northern States, where the negroes are numerically weak, they are permit-ted to enjoy some of the honors of citizenship with their white fellow-citizens, their brethren in the resident; for while, under the necessities of war, he hade the nation ours by calling on us to its defense, ou, under the calm influence of peace, have given us a the nation by lifting our race into the enjoyment of tits immunities.

The interview is represented as pleasant, and that

The interview is represented as pleasant, and that the President replied in substance that the subject involved important points, and he would therefore give to it due consideration.

Advices from Lexington, Va., state that considerable apathy exists among the people in the Valley concerning the coming election. In many of the countries the precincts are so arranged that a considerable distance has to be traversed to get to the registration office or the polls; and unless active steps are taken, it is said many will refuse to trouble themselves so much as to register, and consequently will not vote. In that section the crop prospects are reported (the wheat which is the largest on record) to be time from one end of the Valley to the other, and the anticipated yield is enormous. Tobacco is flourishing.

Gen. Lee arrived at Lexington, Va., on Saturday evening last, very much gratified with the result of his trip North.

The Committee of Pensions has appointed the fol-

The Committee of Pensions has appointed the following named examining surgeous:
New-York—Chas. H. Porter, Albany; R. H. Hopkins, Buffalo; E. S. Stewart, Ellicottsvilie; L. M. Johnson, Greene; Thos. J. King, Machias; James L. Kiernan, New-York. Pennsylvania—Chas. E. Humedbrey, Bethelbem; J. G. Cunningham, Kittamaing; D. R. Greenlee, Meadville; Geo, W. Masser, Scranton; Jas. L. Dunn, Thasvilie. Ohlo—H. J. Herrick, Cleveland; John L. Nelson, Cinchmati; Henry K. Steele, Dayton; Enoch Pearce, Steubenville, New-Jersey, Charles J. Kipp, Suckasuney, Maryisud—D. W. Cattell, Baltimore; G. L. Tarreyhil. Tennessee—J. N. Lvie, Dandridge; Frederick K. Bailey, Knoxville; John Elankenship, Marysville. Missour—H. H. Day and John Elankenship, Marysville. Missour—H. H. Day and J. T. Langrell, Eau Claire, Connecticut—W. R. Brownell, Hartford, Michigan—William T. Dangan, Niles. Illinois—Israel J. Guth. Peoria.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs is still absent om the city. Gen. Camby has made the following State appointnents in Virginia:

ments in Virginia:

O. M. Dorman, Judge of the Supreme Court of Appeals, vice R. C. L. Mencure, removed from office.

John M. Chapman, Judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit, vice John Critcher, removed from office.

B. B. Foster, Judge of the Corporation Court of Norfolk City, vice O. M. Dorman appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia.

J. Laughlin, Cierk of the County Court of Patrick County, vice L. G. Rucker, removed from office.

Charles K. Bingham, Treasurer for Lynchburg, vice W. W. Norvell, removed from office.

Henry Pendleton, High Constable for Portsmonth.

George R. Blacklock, Collector of Taxes for the Northern District of Alexandria County, vice J. O'Neill, appointed Sheriff.

P. B. Sullson, Commonwealth Attorney of Alexandria County, vice S. F. Beach, resigned.

County, vice S. F. Beach, resigned.

There was a large attendance at the National Course to-day to witness the trot between Mountain Maid of Philadelphia and Star of the West of Chicago, for a purse of \$1.000. Mountain Maid won the third heat by a length, the fourth by two lengths, and the fifth by two lengths. Star won the second heat by half a neck. The first was a dead heat. James Rocky of Louisville and Bashaw of Baltimore were entered, but withdrawn. Time: 2:301; 2:301; 2:201; 2:341; 2:33.

# BREVET COMMISSIONS.

PINON OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL ON THOSE ISSUED TO OFFICERS SERVING IN THE INDIAN

WASHINGTON, May 13 .- The following is a copy of the opinion of the Attorney-General in reply to a question of the Secretary of War concerning brevet com-

destino of the Secretary of War concerning brevet commissions to officers serving in the Indian wars:

APPOINTMENTS—INTERNAL REVENUE DECISION
—A COLORED DELEGATION VISITS THE PRESIDENT—THEIR VIEWS ON THE SITUATION—
APATHY OF THE VIRGINIANS ON THE COMING ELECTION.

SIRT The second section of the act of March 1, 1869, ontilled "An act to amend the act of 1806 for establishing rules and articles for the gevernment of the arms of the arms of the sixual public service in the presence of the common shall be an explosion of fire-damp this morning in the Mosnt Pleasant Mine in this city five men and one boy was breveted. Two days after this law took effect or the common shall be act of the men, and that all been predicted or account of services at the here confirmed in y brevet, within a different production of the service men and one boy was breveted. Two days after this law took effect or the service may be the confirmed in y brevet, within a different production of the service confirmed in y brevet, which had been pending before that had been made on account of services endered in recent engages.

James C. Pilkinton of Baltimore has been appointed Superintendent of the Interior Department, vice Duncan, resigned.

J. M. Edmunds of Michigan, now Postmaster of the Called States Senate and formerly Commissioner of the latter break place of the latter branched for the latter of the latter break place of the latter branched for the latter of the latter branched in the officers referred to were not nominated venture.

J. M. Edmunds of Michigan, now Postmaster of the Called from brevet promotions. With productions of the latter branched in this city and county place to the service of the service of the promotions. With production of the promotion of the p

for brevet promotion by reason of distinguished conduct and public service in the face of the enemy, they cannot now be commissioned by brevet. The circumstance that their nominations were pending before the Senate prior to the date of the act does not relieve them from its operations. These nominations were not appointments. To constitute the latter required the issue of commissions in pursuance of the previous nominations after confirmation thereof by the Senate; but the authority to commission in these cases was, it appears, swept away by the statute even before such confirmation was made. It would seem, however, that the other nominations mentioned, which were made and confirmed for meritorious service in recent engagements with the Indians, are within the act, and that consistently with its provisious, brevet commissions may be issued to the officer designated therein. The only point which suggests itself in connection with this branch of the subject is, whether promotions made during Indian hostillites may be viewed as conferred in time of war in the meaning of the law! I that Indian tribes are capable of maintaining peace and war with the Urited States is recognized in numerous treaties made with them, and accordingly where hostilities break out between any of these tribes and the Government, a state of war with propriety may be said to exist. Thus, the act of April 20, 1818, third section, page 439, made a provision for the pay of militia called into service in prosecuting the war with the Seminole tribe of Indians so that brevet promotion made during the existence of Indian hostilities for distinguished service in the presence of the enemy are to be deemed as being "in time of war" within the incaning of the statute. I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

E. R. HOAR, Attorney-General.

THE FRESHET IN THE MISSISSIPPI.

THE RIVER WITHIN TWO INCHES OF HIGH WATER MARK-DANGEROUS CREVASSE BELOW NEW-ORLEANS - GREAT ALARM IN THE CITY-

SEVERAL WHARVES SUBMERGED. NEW-ORLEANS, May 13 .- The crevasse reported everal days ago at Valler's plantation, below the city, has been abandoned as hopeless. The repairs by the negro soldiers and plantation hands wasted away as fast feet in depth, at last accounts, and is increasing. Another crevasse occurred only a half mile below the city limits last evening, but a company of negro soldlers, who were promptly sent from the barracks, closed the gap and strengthened the levee. The water is about two inches below high water mark, but is driven by high north-west winds sometimes above the mark. The wharves at the head of Poydras and Fayette-sts, are submerged. Considerable alarm is felt, and a strict watch is kept on the

The steamers Virginia and Louisiana report that a serious crevasse occurred on Sunday, west of Baton serious crevasse occurred on sanday, west of serious crevasse carried on Rouge Advocate of Monday says this crevasse caused a sudden fail of two inches in the river at that point, also that all attempts to close it were ineffectual, owing to the sandy soil and the extent of the break, which

### GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

ARREARAGES OF DUES-FORMATION OF AN

ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION-ADJOURNMENT. CINCINNATI, Ohio, May 13 .- At a secret session of the Grand Army of the Republic, yesterday after noon, a question arose whether the delegates from the States in arrearages for dues to the National Encampment should be admitted to the floor. Illinots and Mis-Mr. Davis of Illinois said he had no spology to give nor favors to ask; but he said he would either come here

favors to ask; but he said he would either come here with full rights or not at all. He spoke for the three posts in Chicago. Although they had been negligent in their dues, yet during the past year they had raised \$12,000, and had supported the widow and orphan of the soldier with the same. The arrearage test was promptly dropped. The Adjutant-General's report showed that there were in the United States 37 departments of the Grand Army of the Republic and 2,050 posts.

The antional encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic met in secret session at 3 o'clock this morning. Chaplain-General Quint introduced a resolution proposing that the Grand Army of the Republic should form a life insurance and annuity corporation. The motion was adopted and referred to the Special Committee.

The Committee on Finance made their report, which was accepted and the Committee discharged.

Commade Bhodes of Rhede Island was admitted as a delegate to debate on the proposed ritual. The Convention excluded all but the delegates. The annuity corporation proposed is to be organized under the laws of the United States as a Cooperative Association for the benefit of the heirs of deceased committees of the Grand Army of the Republic, and will be chartered by Congress as a National incorporation. The objects of the corporation is to provide and secure a certain sum of money, not less than \$1.00 to the heirs of cach deceased member.

The conditions of admission to membership are that the applicant must be a commade of one of the Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic of good standing; that he must accompany his application by 50 cents admission fee; that the application be filled before the first day of

inabits, state of health or anything eise in regard to particulties of the applicant.

A private session was held from four till five o'clock this afternoon. Gen, John A. Legan was elected Commander-in-Chief. tiev. Fairch'ids of Wisconsin was chosen Senior Vice-Commander. Dr. S. P. Wylie Mitchell was elected Surgeon-General for the Uninted States. The Rev. A. H. Quint was chosen chaplain-in-Chief.

The meeting adjourned at 5 o'clock. The next meetwas elected Surgeon-General for the Uninted States. The Rev. A. H. Quint was chosen chaplain-in-Chief. The meeting adjourned at 5 o'clock. The next meet-ing will be held at Washington, D. C., on the second Wednesday in May. During the session resolutions dis-avowing that any political object pertains to the organi-zation were passed. A banquet was given at the Spencer House this evening. House this evening.

# THE NEW DOMINION.

POLICY OF THE NOVA SCOTIAN GOVERNMENT. HALIFAX, N. S., May 13 .- In the House of Assembly, yesterday, Attorney-General Wilkins submitted a series of resolutions embodying the Government's policy. The resolutions demand increased subsidies, increased representation for the Province in the thes, increased representation to the control that the the three t THE ENGLISH GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING THE

QUESTION OF RELINQUISHING THE COLONIES. MONTREAL, May 13 .- It is stated that information has been received here to the effect that the Privy Council in England is taking into consideration the dvisability of relinquishing all her Colonies except India.

IMPORTANT DECISION BY CHIEF-JUSTICE CHASE RICHMOND, Va., May 13 .- In the United States Court to-day in the proceedings against the United State | Marshal of this district in 1861, for funds turned over to the Confederate Government, the defendant plead the United States statute of limitations, and the plea was admitted by Chief-Justice Chase, who was pre siding, and the United States was nonsuited. This is an important decision, the plea put forward being the same that will be put forward by all Postmasters in the Southern States, who, on the breaking out of the war made the same disposition of Government funds.

BURNING OF A STEAMER AT NEW-ORLEANS. NEW-ORLEANS, May 13 .- The steamship Mexo, which has been lying at the wharf for several weeks, ook fire at 2 o'clock this morning, and burned till she sunk, at 6 o'clock. No cargo or any combustibles were known to be on board. The fire was undoubtedly the work of an incendiary. The Fire Inspector reports the yessel recently sold, it is rumored to the Cubans. There

ASSOCIATION OF BAGGAGE AGENTS. PHILADELPHIA, May 13 .- At a meeting of

general baggage agents, held in this city to-day, a new assurance company was formed for the benefit of the baggagemen and express messengers, similar in its char acter to that of the railroad conductors, recently organ ized, and which has proved so beneficial as well as suc-cessful. The officers elected are Van O'Lmda of the American Merchants' Union Express Company of Chicago, President; George B. Simpson of the Louisville and Nash-ville Railroad, Vice-President, and George J. Clark of the Ohio and Mississippi Railway of Cincinnati, Secretary and Treasurer.

### FOREIGN NEWS.

CUBA.

SEVERE BATTLE AT LAS MINAS-DEFEAT OF THE SPANIARDS.

HAVANA, May 12, via KEY WEST, Fla., May 13,-Private letters have been received from Rebel sources, giving accounts of another battle between the Spanish troops and the insurgents. It took place on the 3d inst., at Las Minas. The Spaniards numbered 1,200, and were under the command of Gen. Lesca. The revolutionary force was commanded by Gen. Quesada in person. report says, before the fighting commenced Quesada posted the native Cubans in front protected by intrenchments, and placed a force of 400 Dominican and American volunteers in their rear, with orders to fire upon them if they ran. Thus placed between two fires, the Cubans fought with desperation. The Spaniards attacked the intrenchments three times with the bayonet. The two first assaults were repulsed by the Cubans; the third was very determined and severe, and the Cubans began to waver, when Quesada ordered the rear guard to the front. They advanced, driving the Cubans into the front ranks of the enemy, A handto-hand combat ensued, in which the butchery was horrible. The Spaniards finally gave way and retreated, but in good order. Their loss is estimated at 160 killed and 300 wounded: that of the Cubans at 200 killed and a proportionate number wounded. The forces of Quesada after the fight marched to San Miguel and burned the town in sight of the retreating Spaniards. It is generally believed that the revolutionary leaders have changed their policy in the field, and in future will fight instead of retreating to the mountains on the appearance of any considerable force of Government troops.

In the battle at Altagracia, which took place on the 1st inst., the Cuban loss was 200, and the Spanish 180 killed and wounded. The Spaniards here regard the result of these actions as fatal to the cause of the rebellion, but the Cubans are jubilant over them as the first great successes of the war for independence. THE CREW OF THE SCHOONER GALVANIC RE-LEASED.

The crew of the schooner Galvanic have been re leased, and taken to Jamaica by the British gunboat Heron. The insurgents have reappeared in the vicinity of Santa Cruz.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

THE TIMES ON THE ALABAMA CLAIMS. LONDON, May 13 .- The Times, to-day, has an editorial article on the rejected Alabama treaty, wherein it is asserted that the Government of Great Britain, in submitting to an arbitration on the question at all, conceded everything that was originally demanded or expected by the American people, and everything that it was possible to con-

REVERDY JOHNSON'S WITHDRAWAL FROM OFFICE. The Hon. Reverdy Johnson to-day sent a dispatch to Washington informing the Secretary of State of his formal withdrawal from the office of Minister to England. After giving in some detail an account of the friendly farewell reception by the Queen, Mr. Johnson says: "This terminates a mission which has been conducted on my part with zeal and fidelity, which has fulfilled to the letter the instructions of my Government, and which has aimed to protect the rights, preserve the honor, and promote the interests of my country."

THE IRISH POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT-MR BRIGHT'S LAND SCHEME DENOUNCED BY EARL RUSSELL.

MIDNIGHT .- In the House of Lords, this evening, Earl Russell inquired what plan the Government proposed to adopt for putting a stop to the outrages which had lately been so frequent in Ireland. He followed his inquiry with some remarks, in which he deprecated the land scheme of Mr. Bright as likely to unsettle the Irish people. He called upon the Government to discountenance all visionary schemes and state clearly what it intended to do.

Earl Granville, the Colonial Secretary, regretted continual recurrence at the present time to this topic. He said the Government was not disposed to state : policy, nor was he authorized to give an opinion on Mr. Bright's plan. Lord Derby urged an exposition of the ministerial policy and a disavowal of Mr. Bright's opinions. The reticence of the Government was dangerous to the best interests of Ireland. After a sharp passage between Lords Derby and Kimberly, the discussion was dropped. At the close of the session this evening, the House of Lords adjourned until the 27th of May.

In the House of Commons to-night, Mr. Otway, Under Foreign Secretary, said Spain had declined to accord a new hearing in the Tornado case. The detailed reasons assigned by Spain were now under consideration of the Law officers of the Crown.

Mr. Cardwell, Secretary of War, in reply to some intimations which had been thrown out, said the Government had no intention of countermanding the orders for the reduction of the troops in Cauada under the existing circumstances.

The Irish Church bill was reported from the Com mittee. Several amendments were proposed, and the bill was recommitted with the understanding that the vote on its third reading shall be taken on the

The Hon. Reverdy Johnson took formal leave of the Queen to-day, and at the interview presented Mr. Moran as Charge d'Affaires until the arrival of Mr. Motley.

THE DONCASTER SPRING MEETING.

The Doncaster Spring meeting commenced to-day. The Hopeful stakes of 10 severeigns each, half forfeit, with 10 sovereigns added by the Corporation of Doneaster; colts, 122 lbs., fillies and geldings, 119 lbs., penalties and allowances; the second to receive 20 sovereigns out of the stakes; about 5 furlongs: Mr. Pryory's b. f. Sister, to Meda; by Lambton, out of

The Duke of Newcastle's b. c. Kennington, by Oxford, out of Polynesia.
Mr. Ray's br. c. Green Riband (late Beechy Head) by
Knight of St Patrick, out of Beechnut...
Four ran.

# ITALY.

THE NEW MINISTRY. FLORENCE, May 13.-The following is the latest

arrangement of the Cabinet: President of the Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs-Gen. Menabrea; Minister of Commerce-Minghetti; Minister of Education-Bargoni; Minister of Justice-Filippo.

#### PERSIA. LARGE NUMBER OF ARRESTS.

LONDON, May 18.-Later advices from Teheran report that the authorities have made about 500 arrests of persons who participated in the recent

THE MASSACHUSETTS BILLIARD TOURNAMENT. BOSTON, May 13 .- The fourth day of the Billiard Tournament commenced with a game between J. H. Flack and L. S. Brooks, and was won by the former-500 to 239. Flack's average was 124, and his highest runs 33, 45, 36, and 57. Brooks's highest runs, 21 and 54. In the nd game W. A. Tobin beat J. F. Murphy-500 to 413. The winner's average was 151, and his highest runs 63, 51, 50, and 84. Murphy's highest runs, 42, 27, 42, and 42. In the evening there was a very large attendance. The first game between A. B. Williams and Samuel Colby was won by the former—500 to 241. The winner's average was 13½, and his highest runs 36, 54, and 30; Colby's, 39 and 20. The second game, between A. B. Williams and J. F. Mur-phy, was won by the former—500 to 465. The winner's average was 11½, and highest runs 42, 49, and 42; Murphy's,

A NEW RAILROAD CONSOLIDATION SCHEME. Boston, Mass., May 13.-A proposition was laid before the Legislative Committee on Railroads to-day for consolidation into one road of the Boston and Lowell, Nashua and Lowell, Nashua and Concord, Northern, Vermont Central, and Ogdensburg Railroads, covering the entire line between this city
and Ogdensburg, N. Y. It is proposed to merge all
these corporations into one, to be called the Great North-

ern Railroad. The bill authorizes the purchase of all the above-named roads, and limits the capital stock of the new corporation to the capital stock and amount of indebtedness of the several roads with the railroad and steamboat lines now leased by them, shich the corporation is also empowered to buy, the whole to be upon terms mutually to be agreed upon, and to be ratified by a majority of the stockholders of each road at a meeting called for the purpose. It is understood that all the roads above-mentioned are in favor of the consolidation. roads above-mentioned are in favor of the consolidation.

A hearing upon the matter will be given at a future day.

The bill for the annexation of Dorchester to Boston
passed the Senate to-day.

#### POLITICAL.

ACTION OF THE INDIANA LEGISLATURE ON THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT-THE DEEOCRATS

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., May 13 .- All the Democratic member of the House of Representatives except two resigned this morning, leaving the House again without a quorum;

In the Senate, at the roll-call this afternoon, 37 members answered to their names. The doors were locked, and the absentees sent for. Pending the proceeding, the Constitutional Amendment was called up, and the vote taken. Although the Democratic members present announced that they had sent their resignation to the Governor this morning, the Lieutenant-Governor ruled that the Senate had no official notice of their fresignation, and declared the amendment ratified by a vote of 27 Yeas to 1 Nay, 11 Senators present not voting.

It is thought the Republican members of the House will vote on the Amendment to-morrow morning, and then adjourn.

RATIFICATION OF THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT BY CONNECTICUT.

HARTFORD, Conn., May 13 .- The House of Representatives to-day ratified the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution by a vote of 126 Republicans to 104 Democrats. Seven were absent or not voting. The 22 majority is the exact Republican majority on a full vote. Only one man classed as a Republican voted "no," and he was elected from a Democratic town on a local issue. The Senate ratified the Amendment last week, the vote in that body, as formerly recorded, being 13 Republicans to 6 Democrats. One was absent from each

The election at White Plains, Westchester County, on Tuesday last, for Village Trustees, was a spirited one, resulting in the election of Elisha P. Ferris, Republican: Harvy Groot, Anti-Ring Democrat, reflected, and R. E. Downing, Democrat. The following is the vote:

 Elisha P. Ferris, Rep.
 290

 Harvey Groot, Dem.
 265

 R. E. Downing, Dem.
 236

 John W. Mills, Dem.
 182

 J. W. Crawford, Dem.
 148

The California State Convention has been called to meet in Sacramento on the 27th of June.

Gov. H. H. Wells of Virginia, the Radical candidate for reflection, recently invited G. C. Walker, the Conservative and "New Movement" candidate for the same office, to a public discussion of the political questions involved in the Gubernatorial contest, which proposition Mr. Walker declines.

The following is the list of city officers elected in Providence, R. I., on the 12th inst.-all Repub-

licans: Mayor—George L. Chirke, City Treasurer—Benjamin Tripp. City Solientor—Charles H. Parkhurst. Superintendent of Health—Edwin M. Snow. Overseer of the Poor—George W. Wightman. Harbor Master—Daniel Joslin. The Board of Aldermen and Common Council are very strongly Republicau.

LOCAL POLITICS.

The reënrollment of the Republicans of the XVIIIth Assemby District ordered by the General Committee was completed last evening. The polls were kept pen for two evenings at No. 590 Third-ave., and the endilment is a large one. The election for delegates and dicers will be held at the same place this evening.

At a meeting of the XVth District Republican Association, held last night, at the corner of Eighthcan Association, near an analysis, as a second of the period of Col. Harper, E. Harrison Real, and Isaac J. Oliver, was appented to look after the interests of the Association is relation to the patronage it is entitled to from the Government. The meeting was presided over by E. Harrison Real, and John Goller acted as Secretary. A number of ers were admitted

The XIth District Union Republican As-The second secon ociation met last night at the Everett Rooms, corner of

The polls were opened last evening at No. 186 The polls were opened last evening at No. 180. Third ave., for the reducilment of the Republicans of the XVIth Assembly District. This is one of the three districts whose delegates were sent back from the General Committee for reflection. The polls were kept open to a very late hour, and to complete the enrollment it will be necessary to hold them open until this evening. A posse of police under Capt. Cameron were present for the purpose of preserving order. The time for holding the election for delegates and officers has not yet been announced. There are several candidates in the field.

THE NEW THROUGH ROUTE TO WASHINGTON. BALTIMORE, May 13 .- The upper branch today concurred in the action of the lower branch of the City Council, granting the right of way through the streets of Baltimore to the Baltimore and Potomae Railroad Company for the construction of the road to Acquia reek and a branch road to Washington.

THE FIRST THROUGH TRAIN ACROSS THE CONTINENT. SPRINGFIELD, Mass., May 13 .- A dispatch, dated yesterday, from Sacramento, Cal., aunounces the

were the first to cross the Continent. THE BERKSHIRE COUNTY SAFE ROBBERS. SPRINGFIELD, Mass, May 13.-Two men, givng their names as Brown and Young, were arrested in this city on suspicion of attempting to rob the Berkshire

County safe at Lenox on Saturday night, and also of breaking into and plundering the safe of Rebinson, Marsh & Co., of this city, last evening. The evidence is strong GENERAL TELEGRAPHIC NEWS. The Veterans of Hartford, Conn. will ob-

... Freeman Lambert, a baggage-master, who was injured on Wednesday by a railroad accident at Ber-wick, N. H., has since died.

. Charles R. McMurren, a commercial trav eller, was drowned at Toronto, Canada, on Wednesday, while boating on the Bay. ...On Saturday the little son of G. Durant, telegraph operator at Boyd's Station, Ky., fell into a tub of hot water, and was scalded to death.

.... The General Court Martial, which has been in session at Richmond, Va. for two years, was dis-solved on Tuesday, by order of Gen. Canby.

... The house and barn of Jonathan Folsom, in Bristol, N. H., were burned on Wednesday. Mr. Folsom, aged 60, perished while endeavoring to remove goods. ...Mr. W. J. Cottwood, President of the San nego and Gia Southern Pacific Railroad, has arrived at Louis, from California, en route to the Memphis Con-

....The emigration from Canada still con-tinues. On Monday a train of 17 cars passed through St. Albans, crowded with French Canadians who intend to settle in the States.

... Charles Schroeder and wife, and Christina Miller, of New-York, were arrested at Hartford, Conn., on Wednesday, for shop-lifting. They were committed to jail in default of bail.

...Gov. Wells, of Virginia, has commuted the sentences of Charles Taylor and Pleasant Richardson, of Henrico County, to imprisonment for 18 years. They were to be hung to-day. ...Yesterday afternoon the Western Union Telegraph lines were working without batteries, especially between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, the air being

charged with electricity. ... The flouring mills and saw mill situated about thirty miles west of St. Louis, belonging to F. Eckermann, were entirely destroyed by fire, on Wednesday night. Loss, \$38,000; insurance, \$20,000.

...B. Davis Noxon, sr., was killed at the freight-yards Syracuse, N. Y., yesterday by a freight-train. He was aged 80 years, and was one of the oldest lawyers and prominent public men in Central New-York.

On Wednesday night, at Jackson, Mich., Charles D. Knapp, Charles W. Carhart and Charles Messerale, all belonging to Jackson, while fishing in Michigan Central Pond, were capsized, and all three were

## APPALLING TRAGEDY.

ATTEMPTED MURDER OF A YOUNG LADY ON BROOKLYN HIGHTS. SUICIDE OF THE WOULD-BE MURDERER-DISAP-

POINTED LOVE THE CAUSE. The peaceful and aristocratic neighborhood of Brooklyn, known as Brooklyn Hights, was at a very early hour yesterday morning thrown into excitement by the enactment of a tragedy which, both as regards its atrocity and romantic features, has seldom be in paral-leled in the chronicles of crime. The affair consists in a midnight assault u on a young lady and her attempted assassination by a rejected solver, and his subsequent suicide. The scene was No. 1 Monta ue Terrace, the resi-

dence of Mr. Benjamin Flint, a retired merchant. It appears that many years ago Mr. Benjamin Filint and a Mr. Talbot, a weal by Boston merchant, had cultivated a firm friendship, which commenced during business transactions and terminated only with the death of the latter gentleman, come 12 months ago, a Samuel D. Talbot, son of Mr. Flint's friend, arrived in New-York with the intention of entering into business on his own account. At that time he had recently returned from a tour of Europe, and as he was young, remarkably well educated. of cultivated manners, and reputed to be wealthy, he found no difficulty in obtaining admittance to the best families. In person, he was below the medium hight, of light complexion, frail, and prepossessing-his manners at times rather strange, and his eyesight failing. Among those whose friendship he had cultivated was Mr. Flint, who, for his father's sake, treated him more like a son than a stranger. So great an intimacy sprang up between them that Mr. Flint set apart for him a bedroom in his own house, and welcomed him to table or to the social amusements of his family. Last Fall a Miss L. Lizzie Scribner, sister-in-law of Mr.

Flint, a young lady about 20 years of age, arrived at the

house of that gentleman to spend the Winter with the

family. Of course Mr. Talbot and the young lady were

frequently thrown together in company, and the result of their intimacy was a proposition of marriage from him in January last, when he was about to commence business. Miss Scribner, however, had never entertained the most remote thoughts of any such relations with Mr. Talbot, and never dreamed that he cherished an affection for her. She rejected his suit, and at a little family council held upon the matter, various objections were urged upon him against the preposed marriage. This result did not cause Talbot, app. rently, the sligh est uneasiness. He commenced business sho tly after in Pearl-st., New-York, as a dry goods commission merchant, and was regarded by those with whom he had business transactions as a per on to be esteemed and trusted, of good disposition, correct hab ts, and irrepresentable character. This is the opinion entertained of him by the witnesses at the inquest-those who knew him best. He still paid his addresses to Miss Scribner, and as nothing unusual was observable in his conduct to her, no extraneous motive or explanation can be assigned for the terrible deeds which he attempted to commit. The only explanation available is afforded by the circumstances surrounding the crimes themselves, and by their relation to each other. A few evenings ago, after dinner, Mr. Talbos came into the parlor exquisitely dressed and an nounced his intention of going to the theater, with the request that Miss Scribner should accompany him. This she politely declined to do, giving what appeared to him to be a frivolous excuse. He has seemed to exhibit since then a forced pleasantness, though everything was done by the family to dispel his evidently bitter feelings of disappointment. On Wednesday night he returned home at 114 o'clock and entered his apartment on the third floor. Mr. Flint heard him entering by the hall door, but shortly after went to sleep. On the same floor with Mr. Talbot were the bed-rooms of Miss Scribner and a son of Mr. Flint. It has been the custom of the young lady, before retiring, to open the window and leave the door slightly ajar to admit a current of air. Mr. Taibot was not ignorant of this, as will appear from the sequel. Shortly after 1 o'clock Miss Talbot was awakened from ner slumbers by a person pressing violently on her face a towel saturated with chloroform and morphine. She dashed it aside, and recognized by the light from the street lamp the person of Talbot, who still attempted to press the towel to her face, free. The household being alarmed, Talbot beat a hasty retreat to his own room, and ensconced himself beneath

her to her own apar me t on the floor beneath. Mr. Scribner to her sister, and the latter going up stairs to Mr. Flint, remar ed, "Pa: it's not burglars; Lizzie says it's Mr. Talbot." While returning down stairs from the room, Mr. Flint was astonished to see Taibot rushing wildly past him, dressed only in his pantal ion; under linen, and socks. The esperate youth pushed open the

the bedelothes, pretending profound sleep. A sister of

the terrified young lady rushed up stairs and conveyed

door of the room now occupied by Miss Scribner and her sister, approached the former, who shrunk into the farthest corner, leveled a patol at her head, and fired twice deliberately. The first discharge grazed the temple, tearing away a small portion of the flesh and inflicting a slight wound near the left eye. Miss Scribner lifted her hands naturally to guard her head, and while doing so, a second ball entered her left hand, breaking two of the bones and passing through the flesh in a spiral direction midway up the fore-arm. She then fell insensible, and remained in that condition until taken up by Drs. Cochrane, Ayers, and Bates. The wretched young man, supposing that he had accomplished his purpose, rushed up stairs to his own

room and locked himself within. The third report of the revolver was now heard by the officers on duty in the neighborhood, and a heavy fall on the bedroom floor told arrival in that city of a train of Springfield cars, which the inmates of the house the story of the would-be assassin's fate. The Poffice and some wayfarers who had heard the reports of the revolver and the screams of Miss Scribner, surrounded the doorway and clamored for admission, and in an incredibly short time the hallway of the mansion was filled with an excited throng, while the Police and Dr. Ayers took possession of the upper room The bedroom of Talbot was first visited. Upon entering the room on the left hand side stood the commode, on the

top of which was a six ounce bottle with about one-half an ounce of chloroform left in it. On a tin money box lay a towel folded up in many folds and strongly impregnated with chloroform. There were beside the bottle several boo's, on one of which lay Talbot's spectacles and a bottle containing about one-sixteenth part of an ounce of morphine (There is a popular t'o igh false idea that if coloroform be mix d with an anodyne like morphine as effects wil be more powerful.) About a foot in troot of this commode lay on the carpeted foor the loly of the suici e, his head near the center of an immense pool of clotted thoo with an admixture of the brains of the dead man. He was

dressed in a pair of light colored cloth pantaloons, his suspenders hanging loose ceitind, and with his stockings on. His hands lay in front, and immediately under his right hand lay a five-barrelled revelver, three chambers \$ of which had been discharged, two being still loaded. The bullet had made an entrance on the right side of his head in front of the ear penetrating the temple, and going out on the opposite side, just above and back of the left e r. The bones of the head had separated in a number of places. The blood had welled out of the wound over his face, presenting a gory and ghastly spectacle. The shirt and vest which he had worn during the day were to rown over the back of a chair. His collar, scarf, knife, peneff-case, &c., lay upon the top of the bureau between the windows.

On searching the tin money box, before alinded to, it was found to contain two bottles, each of which had one] eighth of an ounce of morphine. These bottles had never been opened, as they bore the cilginal seal. In the box was also a bank-book, showing that he had in the National Park Bank to his credit nearly \$2,000. There was with it some letters and documents, hone of which gave a clue to his premeditated suicide. His purse and his watch, a very valuable gold repeater, lay on a chair. The watch had stopped at 4:20 a. m. All the appointments of the room showed that the occupant enjoyed wealth, and that his tastes were refined. His library contained no books of light literature. They were mostly on political sconomy, jurisprudence, ethics, moral philosophy, and history. His wardrobe was superabund int.

Mafter the room had been placed in charge of a police flicer, the physician and the coroner, Dr. Jones, went down stairs to take the deposition of Miss Scr.bner. She was lying apparently lifeless, but after some time she exhibited a considerable degree of animation and excite ment. Miss Scribner is of dark com; lexion, of great peronal beauty, and about 20 years of age. Her deportment and language shows the highest culture. After she had